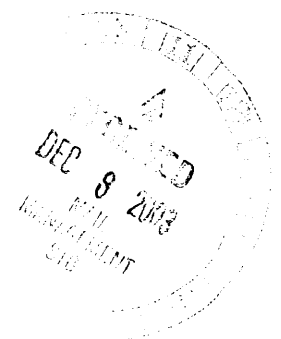




EI-349  
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December 3, 2003

Case Control Unit  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NM  
Washington, DC 20423-0001  
ATTENTION: Troy Brady  
Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1095X)

Dear Mr. Brady:

The York County Rail Trail Authority would like to thank the Surface Transportation Board for providing a opportunity for us to speak at the public meeting held in Quarryville, PA on November 19, 2003 in reference to the Enola Branch rail line abandonment.

We offer this written testimony to further clarify our position with regards to these proceedings. In particular, we note the following with respect to preservation of the line:

- The stipulations to be imposed on Norfolk Southern in the MOA serve to preserve the Enola line through museum exhibits, photographs, and other documentation as required by the Board. As the county agency charged with preserving and restoring for adaptive reuse the Northern Central Railway and its seven historic structures in York County, we find these stipulations to fall significantly short of providing for the preservation of the Enola line.
- As an organization that has been deeply involved in the restoration of the Hanover Junction and New Freedom Railroad Stations and the Howard Tunnel, the York County Rail Trail Authority expresses full support of the preservation and restoration of the historic structures of the Enola line.

In addition, we note the following with respect to conversion of the line to a trail:

- We strongly support the railbanking of the Enola line and its subsequent conversion into a trail. Our support is based on the innumerable benefits of a trail as so well expressed in the public meetings.
- As an Authority formed in 1990 by the York County Board of Commissioners and charged with the development of the Heritage Rail Trail, we recognize the imperative need for an entity to come forward or to be created that can assume

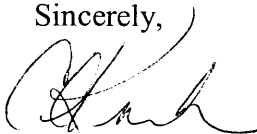
the vision and responsibilities related to possible conversion of the Enola line into a non-motorized trail.

- Our experience of over nine years of negotiations with the eleven municipalities through which the Heritage Rail Trail runs has demonstrated that such an undertaking should not reside solely within the municipalities.

Lastly, as an Authority whose directors have served as volunteers of the County of York, whose projects have been supported by over \$750,000 of voluntary contributions, and whose supporters have come forward with countless hours of volunteer service, we believe that the citizens of Lancaster County are equally capable of successfully converting the Enola line to a trail.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to review the Memorandum of Agreement and Notice to the Parties and to provide comments on these proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Knoch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl Knoch  
Chairman

York County Rail Trail Authority